

## The State Chronicle

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SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1890.

Equal and Exact Justice to all Men,  
of whatever State or Persuasion, Re-  
ligious or Political.--Thomas Jefferson.

## HOW THE FARMERS' FERTILIZER IS TO BE TAXED.

The tariff bill has passed the House, and will now go to the Senate. It may or may not become a law. The chances are that the Republican lash will be applied, and that it will be enacted into a law. It is the worst measure, the most unjust and burdensome upon the great mass of the people, that has passed the House in a quarter of a century. No time was allowed for general debate. Under the rule adopted 200 amendments, offered and pending, will never be considered. The members of the House were deprived of the right of discussion by an iron-clad rule. More than one hundred of the one hundred and fifty pages of the bill were not discussed at all. It was well for the Republicans that little time was allowed for debate. Even in the few short speeches that were made the Democrats showed up the inequalities and burdens and wrongs of the measure.

The bill is ostensibly in the interest of the farmers, but there is really no protection for them. The sham pretense of helping the farmer by imposing duties upon certain products of the farm, as a pretended protection of the farming interests, is seen when we refer to the amount of the importations of such articles last year. They were:

Eighty-eight dollars worth of lard, \$978 worth of pork, \$1,212.70 worth of corn, \$352.75 worth of corn meal, 16 bushels of rye and 1,946½ bushels of wheat. The total importation of these six articles fell short of \$5,000 in value, while the exportations of the same commodities reached \$140,000,000 in value. There is no help for the farmers. On the contrary, their burdens are increased. Take the item of fertilizers. In a short speech, Hon. H. G. TURNER, of Georgia, (a native of Vance county and brother of Dr. V. E. TURNER, of Raleigh), shows that the aids promised to farmers "are certain cheap shams." He says:

Our farmers at the South, in order to be able to compete with growers of cotton in Texas and on the bottoms of the great Western rivers, have been compelled to go largely into the use of commercial manures. By intense fertilization, as well as by the extension of the cotton area, we have nearly doubled the cotton crop. By means of fertilizers we have been able to keep our population in Georgia stable and contented, and enjoy at this time a fair degree of prosperity, considering existing conditions. In that State, according to the report of our commissioner of agriculture for the year 1887, more than 208,000 tons of commercial fertilizers were inspected and sold.

Now, this bill puts upon sulphuric acid, which has always been free, a tax of one-fourth of a cent a pound. Sulphuric acid is required in the proportion of 1,000 pounds to 1,200 pounds of phosphate rock to make a ton of fertilizer. If the tax enhances the cost of the acid to the extent of the duty every ton of fertilizer in Georgia of whatever kind will cost the farmers \$2.50 more than the present price, other existing conditions remaining the same.

You tax the bagging in which these farmers have been accustomed to send their cotton to market. You tax the iron ties by which the bales are bound. Do you propose to tax every ton of fertilizer they use to the amount of \$2.50? In the State of Georgia that tax on sulphuric acid alone, in the case supposed, would amount to \$700,000, half as much as the entire State taxation. On the citizens of the county in which I live this tax on sulphuric acid would amount to \$3,000. And when it is remembered that muriatic acid is also taxed in the same amount in this bill, to say nothing of ammonia, it will be found that the bill imposes upon the farmers of the South, of the North, and of the West a burden amounting to many millions of dollars. Taking the memorable lesson of the jute bagging trust which was formed two years ago, let us pause and anticipate what the result will be if this tax on fertilizers shall break down foreign competition and leave us no defense against a trust in fertilizers. Surely cotton ought not to bear only burdens.

Let us make the calculation for North Carolina. Not less than 100,000 tons of commercial fertilizers were used in the State last year. Under the McKinley bill the farmers will have to pay an additional tax of \$2.50 per ton. This imposes an annual extra tax upon the farmers of North Carolina of \$250,000, more than one-third of all State taxes. Our readers can figure out the tax in each county by ascertaining how many tons of fertilizer are used.

This is one item only. The condition of the cotton planters is deplorable enough already, and this last tax is almost the last straw on the camel's back. If it does not break, it will be because the people have become so used

to bearing burden and denying themselves most of the comforts and many of the necessities of life that they can stand anything. Commercial fertilizers have always been too costly and the profits too large. The farmers will have to pay this increased tax unless the manufacturers of fertilizers decide to divide it with them and reduce their own profits. But it must be paid, and if it were not for this increased cost the farmers would every year secure a reduction in the price of fertilizers. In the last analysis they must pay \$2.50 additional tax upon every ton of commercial fertilizers they use.

This is the way the Republicans carry out their promise to help the farmer. They give a bounty of two cents a pound on sugar and add to the burden of the producer of cotton. The Alliance throughout the South ought to speak out against this robbery of the poorest paid of all men.

Let the farmer remember this: EVERY Democrat in Congress voted against this tax; and ONLY ONE Republican (and he lives in Louisiana) voted against it, all the others voting to place this additional taxation upon the cotton planters of the South.

## ANYTHING TO KEEP AFLOAT.

The last issue of Puck which, by the way, has come to be one of the brightest and strongest Democratic papers in the country, has a cartoon which is the best illustration of the present condition of the Republican party that could be devised. The picture is entitled "Anything to Keep Afloat." The "Grand Old Party" is represented as a ship buffeted by the waves and sinking. Hanging on for life, his grandfather's hat tied on with a handkerchief, is PRESIDENT HARRISON who looks as evil as his acts. Directing the course of the ship are REID, McKINLEY and QUAY who seem determined to keep afloat at any cost. In the bow of the boat, with hands clasped in supplication, is WANAMAKER who wears a life-preserver inscribed "Hypocrisy is the best policy." The ship seems to be sinking, and the crew find it necessary to unload. Already have "Ballot Reform," "Sound Financial Policy" and "Moral Ideas" been thrown overboard to lighten the weight; and still the ship is sinking. Other weight must be thrown overboard to keep it afloat. Lashed to the mast is INGALLS in the act of throwing over the stone of "The Ten Commandments." DUDLEY holds "Tariff Reform" in his arms ready to fling it over; EDMUNDS has hurled "Civil Service Reform" overboard; "Economic Administration" is ready to follow, and FRISBEE HOAR is lifting up "Non interference with State Rights" ready to also let it find a watery grave. It is a demoralized crew, but each and every man seems bent upon saving his hide and keeping the ship afloat a little longer.

This picture is a graphic description of the Republican party. It sees that it is sinking into disfavor, and it is willing to throw away all the principles it ever professed to believe in if by this means it can retain power. But it is too late. The ship will sink next November.

## THERE IS WORK AHEAD.

There seems to be a general disposition to put off the beginning of the campaign this year until the crops are laid by, so as not to distract the farmers from their work, and to allow everybody to go at it when begun with all their might. While this may be good as a general policy, wouldn't it be wise to commence work in congressional matters a little sooner, especially in the fifth and ninth districts? They belong to the Democrats, but it will require the right men and right sort of work to reclaim them. Nothing but thorough instruction of the people will do it, and this means personal contact with them. The candidates ought to go into every school district. It will require this to reorganize the defeated forces as they should be. The executive committees of the congressional districts may well consider this, and in closely contested districts make their nominations early.

Mr. C. P. HUNTINGTON will not ride in an elevator with a colored man. He has no objection to the colored man but don't think it is lucky. In going up he fears he might come down. In this Mr. HUNTINGTON bears a striking resemblance to the Republican politicians. They like the negro but they don't want him to go up in the same elevator. —Wilmington Star.

## NEGROES NOT DEFRAUDED.

That is What Mr. Brower Says and He will Not Vote for a Federal Election Law.

GREENSBORO, N. C., May 22.—Congressman John M. Brower, of this district, is quoted here as saying that he will not vote for a national election law. He declares there are no frauds in this State in elections except in the negro counties, and if the negroes were they are in the majority cannot protect themselves, he does not intend to vote for a measure that affects eight of the Congressional districts in order to elect Obeatham, negro, in the 2d district. Mr. Brower is understood as being against anything that savors of the force policy toward the South.

Col. M. L. McCorkle, of Newton, will be a candidate for the Judgeship in the Eleventh district. Newton, History and Taylorsville papers have declared for him.

## ROANOKE LANDS.

(Special Cor. of STATE CHRONICLE.)

I see in yesterday's CHRONICLE a discussion in regard to the reclamation of the fertile lands along the Roanoke river in the editorial columns, and also by a correspondent from that section of the State. It is suggested that the convicts sent to the penitentiary from the counties affected by the overflow should be given to them by the State to dike the Roanoke to keep it from flooding good farming lands.

It seems to me there can be no reasonable objection to such a course, provided the counties work the convicts themselves, and I have no doubt this method would remedy the evil complained of.

I am inclined to the opinion that the act passed by the Legislature of 1887, Chapter 355, meets the case. That act gives to every county, or any number of counties jointly, the privilege of using those sentenced for crimes to the penitentiary and jails from such counties to work their public highways when they shall have made provision for the proper care of the convicts. If there should be any doubt as to whether the act is intended to apply to the dike of waterways the act could be very easily amended to do such work.

I believe this method of using convict labor will more and more commend itself to the people of the State as they see what can be accomplished with it. The convicts of Wake county and some other counties are now being used upon public improvements under the act referred to. The work being done, certainly in Wake county, is of the most satisfactory kind, and work too that should have been done fifty years ago. I have no doubt that that the fertile river lands of Bertie, Martin, Halifax, Northampton and other counties may be reclaimed by the use of their own convicts. I hope the counties referred to will try to help themselves in this way before they call upon the State treasury. I have no doubt the counties can do it better and cheaper than the State, because the counties interested can see where the money or labor goes that may be expended.

I hope I may be pardoned for mentioning another matter about these Roanoke lands in this connection, about which a great deal has been said recently, especially since the penitentiary authorities have gone into the business of farming upon the Roanoke, and it is alleged upon these very lands that are subject to overflow. There has been considerable dissatisfaction about it in a quiet way, and much criticism has been directed against the present board of directors of the penitentiary for their action in moving to their present location for farming. I think public officials should know what is being said about their official action, when it is seen not to be prompted by interested or petty motives, that they may give a reason for their official action if they shall so desire. The criticisms that I have heard do not emanate from such a source and they are brought to my mind by reason of the discussion of the flooded lands along the Roanoke.

The criticisms that I refer to are, that the present board of directors entered into a contract with the parties who own the lands upon which the penitentiary farms upon the Roanoke are located to pay one dollar per acre as rent when the lands they formerly rented cost less than that sum. It is also asserted that the penitentiary board, under the contract referred to, took an option from the parties owning the lands to purchase them for ten dollars per acre, when lands in every way as good in the same section could have been bought for five dollars per acre. It has also been asserted that the lands now leased by the Penitentiary, leased with option to purchase, belong to parties who are kin to some of the directors or have mortgages upon them.

I know that the present Board of Directors are shrewd business men and are capable of taking care of the State in any transaction. Some of them I know personally, and know to be men of the highest integrity and as the Board is now in session, I think it due them that they should make a statement about this matter.

## THE TARIFF A SCHEME OF PHLEBOTOMY.

(Extract from Hon. H. G. Turner's Speech.)

In the course of an admirable speech, in response to some impulse suggested to him by the object lesson presented by the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BURROWS] on the subject of tin the other day, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BUTTERWORTH] compared the operation of protection to the ravages of fleas. When the speech was revised that instructive simile disappeared. [Laughter and applause on the Democratic side.] When protection is given all around we may console ourselves with the reflection that if we have the parasites on us, we are also parasites upon them. It is a scheme, Mr. Chairman, of "phlebotomy." [Laughter.] It is the consummation of the philosophy of Hudibras:

Big fleas have little fleas to worry and to bite them,  
And little fleas lesser fleas and so ad infinitum.

[Laughter.] While there are certain cheap shams in the bill intended to deceive and mislead the agricultural classes, there are other provisions which will add greatly to their burdens.

It has been said by the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. ROGERS] that a fit supplement to this bill would be a bankruptcy bill. I believe that if this bill passes the fit and proper supplement to it will be an election bill. Nothing but returning boards, by which (like the Speaker of the House when he wants a quorum) they may count the entire voting population! [Laughter and applause on the Democratic side.]

## BLAINE WILL BACK DEPEW.

He Doesn't Think Harrison Will Enter for the '92 Stake.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 22.—Touching Mr. Blaine's interest in public affairs, and especially in politics, the Washington Herald prints this interesting article:

"Secretary Blaine is taking a very lively interest in politics. He misses no opportunity to inform himself of the outlook for the next Presidential campaign. When conversing with his political friends he always states most emphatically that he will not be a can-

didate for the Presidential nomination in 1892. At the same time he does not hesitate to declare that if his health had been as good two years ago as it is today he would not have written either the message which he sent from Florence or the one which he afterwards sent from Scotland while the Convention was in session at Chicago. In other words, it was poor health alone that caused him to withdraw from the field of candidates. "It is apparent from the general tone of the Secretary's remarks that he does not expect either Mr. Cleveland or President Harrison to be nominated for the Presidency in 1892. He looks upon Gov. David B. Hill, of New York, as the man on the Democratic side, and he does not hesitate to say that the Governor will be a hard man to beat.

"Can Hill be beaten?" is the question he put to a prominent New York Republican the other day and the answer he received was this: "Yes, Hill can be beaten in New York; positively by one man, possibly by two. You might possibly beat him yourself," (to Mr. Blaine) "but Mr. Depew can beat him for a certainty."

"Then," said Mr. Blaine, "I shall be happy to do everything in my power to bring about the nomination and election of Mr. Depew."

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